

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the first paragraph on page 1 as follows:

RELATED APPLICATIONS

[001] This application is related to the following commonly assigned applications filed on even date herewith: “Satellite Location Dissemination,” Application Serial No. 10/626112[(02-4105)]; and “Satellite System Topology Control,” Application Serial No. 10/626306[(02-4106)]. The contents of these two applications are hereby incorporated herein by reference.

Please amend paragraph [0045] on page 12 as follows:

[0045] In a centralized topology control system, a centralized entity is responsible for determining which satellites should form links to which other satellites. This entity may, for example, be located at one of ground stations 140. In this control system, all of backbone satellites 110 communicate their orbital information to this central entity, which in turn runs an algorithm that determines which links should be formed. The central entity then transmits commands to backbone satellites 110 giving them the schedule of where and when they should steer their directional transceivers, such as ISL I/O devices 222 and 223, and UPD I/O device 224. Additional details describing a centralized topology control system can be found in U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/626306[(Attorney Docket No. 02-4106)], entitled “Satellite System Topology Control,” the contents of which were previously incorporated by reference.

Please amend paragraph [0049] on page 13 as follows:

[0049] At a given start time for a given inter-satellite link 111, two backbone satellites 110 involved in the link steer their respective transmit/receive equipment (i.e., ISL access devices

222 and 223) to point towards one another (Act 404). On an ongoing basis, backbone satellites 110 re-compute their location and orbital information and disseminate this information to other satellites in network 100 (Act 405). Additional details describing dissemination of orbital information in network 100 can be found in U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/626112[(Attorney Docket No. 02-4104)], entitled "Satellite Location Dissemination." Acts 403-405 can be repeated as necessary during normal operation of the network.